GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4279
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL COOPERATIVES FOR MARKETING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Agriculture in their Report No.25 of 2002have recommended for establishment of rural cooperatives for marketing fruits and vegetables with the support of NAFED etc. on the lines of Milk Co-operative; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government has taken a number of steps to promote fruit and vegetable marketing and processing cooperatives in the country. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is providing financial assistance for creatinginfrastructure for marketing, processing and storage of agricultural and horticultural produce in the cooperative sector. NCDC has so far assisted 432 projects in the country to enable cooperatives to market fruits and vegetables. The assistance is provided to the fruits and vegetables cooperatives for strengthening their share capital base, margin money assistance for raising working capital, assistance for purpose of transport vehicles, construction of sheds and godowns, constructions of cold-storages, creating of marketing infrastructure etc. NCDC has also assisted 45 fruits andvegetables processing units as on 31.3.2002. Government will continue to promote fruits and vegetables cooperatives through the programmes of NCDC.